January 26, 2004

201-15070

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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Michael Leavitt, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building (1101A)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Comments on the HPV test plan for dimethyl 3,3'-thiobispropionate

Dear Administrator Leavitt:

The following comments on the test plan for dimethyl 3,3'-thiobispropionate (CAS no. 4131-74-2), prepared by Crompton Corp., are submitted on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, the Humane Society of the U.S., the Doris Day Animal League, and Earth Island Institute. These health, animal, and environmental protection organizations have a combined membership of more than ten million Americans.

Crompton has shown, on the basis of structural and metabolic information, that dimethyl 3,3'-thiobispropionate is hydrolyzed to thiodipropionic acid in the gastrointestinal tract, and that most of the toxicity of dimethyl 3,3'-thiobispropionate is due to this acid. This enables the use of thiodipropionic acid toxicity data instead of dimethyl 3,3'-thiobispropionate toxicity data in this test plan, and, as data on thiodipropionic acid are already available for most mammalian toxicity test categories, this means that no animal tests need be carried out. Crompton is therefore to be commended for applying an important principle, which has been stated repeatedly by the EPA [Wayland, Oct. 4, 1999, http://www.epa.gov/chemrtk/ceoltr2.htm; "Data collection and development on HPV chemicals", *Federal Register* 65(248), Dec. 26, 2000, p. 81691]:

> "Participants shall maximize the use of scientifically appropriate categories of related chemicals and structure activity relationships."

In addition, fish tests are considered unnecessary because this endpoint has been estimated by ECOSAR, the water solubility is very low, and the log Kow very high.

The only endpoint for which toxicity data are not available for either dimethyl 3,3'-thiobispropionate or thiodipropionic acid is genetic toxicity. Crompton has appropriately decided to conduct *in vitro* tests for this endpoint. One of these tests, the chromosomal aberration test (OECD no. 473), is carried out with mammalian cells and we hope that Crompton will choose to use human lymphocytes rather than the Chinese hamster ovary cells.

Thank you for your attention to these comments. I can be reached at 757-622-7382, extension 1304, or via e-mail at JessicaS@PETA.org.

Sincerely,

Jessica Sandler
Federal Agency Liaison